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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 13, 2005

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for January 13, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

#### POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

2. OZGUR GUNDEM: Fevzi Can, a shepard grazing his sheep in Semdinli, Hakkari, was shot dead on November 29, 2004 by a junior officer, Hakan Sener, on the grounds that Fevzi Can did not obey the officer's warning to stop. The Semdinli Court of Peace then arrested Hakan Sener upon the charge against him for killing a person deliberately. During the first hearing of the court that was held yesterday at the Hakkari Criminal Court of Law, despite the objections of the participating attorneys, the court decided to release Hakan Sener and adjourned the hearing to March 22nd.

3. CUMHURIYET / OZGUR GUNDEM: The negotiation talks are currently being held between Turkey and Russia over energy issues during PM Erdogan's recent visit to Russia. The Turkish side proposes that Russian petroleum be carried to the Mediterranean through the Samsun-Ceyhan pipeline, instead of carrying the petroleum through the (Turkish) Straits. If Russia agrees with this proposal, an oil refinery is going to be built at Ceyhan, Adana. The "Mavi Akim Natural Gas Pipeline" project between Samsun and Ceyhan is another energy issue that is on the agenda of the talks.

4. CUMHURIYET / SABAH / YENI SAFAK: The Incirlik Airbase issue is on the agenda of the talks between Turkey and U.S. Turkey is indisposed to permit the US side to use Incirlik Airbase in operational and more flexible terms. According to Yeni Safak, the Deputy President of Saadet Partisi (Happiness Party) claimed that U.S.A. wants to use the Incirlik Airbase for its plans against Iran. However, according to an interview of Sabah with US Gen. John Abizaid, U.S. has not made any appeals to Ankara about the use of the Base in "operational" terms. According to Abizaid, U.S.'s request was that Ankara should consider the U.S. side's proposal to launch a Logistics Center in the Base, which would relieve the traffic congestion of the Habur border gate in Slop, a town of Sirnak province.

5. CUMHURIYET: Mehmet Celik lost his life during a fight he was involved in Diyarbakir. His son, Selahattin Celik, has been searching for his father's skull, which had disappeared after he sent it to the forensic medicine three years ago. Selahattin Celik filed a complaint to the Higher Board of Judges and Prosecutors against the Diyarbakir Prosecutor because of this serious negligence.

6. EKSPRES: The Mardin Governor, Temel Kocaklar, chaired a meeting held in Mardin on the issue of protection and rehabilitation of the street children. Kocaklar stated that the problem should immediately be addressed in Mardin, because the number of the street children is on the increase.

7. EKSPRES / ZAMAN: The Adana Prosecutorsud sx octor forallegedly inflicting finacal loses on he SSK(Hspitals of Social Security Authority). Accordingto the Prosecutor, the six doctors "created false documents and reports fo unnecessary medical tratments of 27 SSK patients" and obtained illegal profit from such frauds inflicting a total loss of 2 trillion Turkish liras (US\$1.5 million) on the SSK.

8. MILLIYET: Kemal Donmez, Deputy Security Director of Mardin, the person in charge of conducting the operation that resulted in the killing of Ugur and Ahmet Kaymaz, had been effective in the course of the investigation although he was also included in the scope of the investigation. Kemal Donmez, before he was suspended from office, had sent an official letter to the Prosecutor requesting that the confessor be interrogated and the guns found beside the dead bodies of Ugur and Ahmet Kaymaz be inspected.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. HURRIYET (CUKUROVA) / MILLIYET: The Adana Chamber of Commerce is going to organize the first "International Economic Cooperation Forum" on February 18 and 19 in order to promote the region's production potential and to present cooperative opportunities to the foreign investors and entrepreneurs. It is stated that PM Erdogan will be attending the Forum as well.